

The Anti-Slavery Bugle.

OLIVER JOHNSON, Editor.

"NO UNION WITH SLAVEHOLDERS."

JAMES BARNABY, Publishing Agent.

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THE BUGLE

The Fugitive Slave Law.

Meeting in Pittsburgh and Allegheny.

On Saturday evening, Sept. 28, a meeting of citizens of Allegheny County, Pa., opposed to the Fugitive Slave Law, was held in Pittsburgh. It was attended by a tremendous concourse of people. Rev. Charles Avery was appointed Chairman; and Messrs. George W. Jackson and George R. Riddle, Vice Presidents. Joseph Snowden and R. C. Flosson, acted as Secretaries.

The chairman, according to the report of the Gazette, said:

They had convened for the purpose of taking into consideration some of the provisions of a bill, recently passed by Congress, called the "Fugitive Slave Bill," which he believed to be unconstitutional, and ought never to be enforced in Pennsylvania. Some of those provisions were so odious that an expression of the public opinion on the subject should be made in Allegheny county, and all over the State. It was one of the most sinful laws ever passed, and calculated to suspend the right of habeas corpus, and trial by jury. Nay, it was even made the duty of ministers of the gospel to become slave catchers, and rivet the galling chains of slavery on the limbs of their fellow men. Those very ministers whose duty it was to proclaim peace to the world, and let the captive go free, were called on to aid and assist the blood hounds of slavery, and trampling under foot all Divine Authority, to join in this work of infamy and crime. But he would say that if they did not take a stand against this law, and refuse to comply with its provisions, they should be expelled from their pulpits (cheers). They should aid the oppressed, not the oppressor. All good citizens were commended, by this law, to aid and assist in deeds of infamy, and if they did not, they were punishable by fine and imprisonment. And who had passed this law? Our servants in Congress. It was time they should learn their proper position, and be made to feel that they were not our masters. (Applause.) Let us say to them that the law must be repealed. Let us command them to do this, and never suffer such a law to go into operation in Pennsylvania. Every man who accepts a commission under it, should be branded with the mark of infamy, and shunned as though he were a leper, (loud cheers). For his part, he never would obey this law. (Applause.) He would obey the Divine Law, and never trample the precepts of the Gospel under foot.

Hon. T. M. Howe, Whig candidate for Congress, was then called out. He said:

I look on the "fugitive slave bill" as more full of iniquity than any other that has been passed by our national Legislature for the last twenty years. (Great applause.) I cannot express my detestation of its infamous provisions! Is it not outrageous that in the middle of the nineteenth century, in the United States of America, a bill should be passed which would almost have disgraced the "dark ages"? Our National Legislature has struck down the bulwarks erected around Freedom by our English ancestors. Sword in hand, the Barons of England wrested from the reluctant grasp of King John, the "Magna Charta" which bestowed on all the inestimable privilege of trial by jury. This privilege is the inalienable right of every person in the United States. Why was it, then, that our colored fellow citizens were deprived of it? Could it be that we denied them their rights because their complexion was of a darker hue than ours, or because they were trampled by local laws? Unfortunately we are, to a certain extent, bound to the Southern States.—Our Constitution, otherwise so perfect, contains one blot, but it is surely enough that we should remain passive spectators of wrong, and not allow ourselves to be transformed from men into slave catchers. (Loud applause.) If fellow citizens, you should think fit to delegate to me a portion of your power, I pledge myself that that power shall never be exerted to crush the interests of freedom. Tremendous applause, and cries of we'll send you to Congress.

Mr. Howe, with all his indignant eloquence, cannot hide the fact that the 'blot' of which he complains is in the Constitution, and yet he proposes to go to Congress with that millstone about his neck. What is the meaning of all this fuss about magna charta, habeas corpus, trial by jury, &c.? What is the use of trial by jury, when the jury themselves are under a solemn oath to regard the Constitution and the statutes framed in accordance with it as the paramount law of the land? And what is the question which you propose to submit to the jury? Why, this—Whether one man is the property of another? Is that a free Constitution, or a free country, which treats that as a doubtful question? If the slave is to be

sent back to his prison house, what matters it to him whether the deed be done by a petty Commissioner, or under the solemn form of a jury trial? To permit a jury trial in such a case is a virtual acknowledgment that slavery is a rightful institution, and that, under certain circumstances, the Constitution binds us to send the fugitive back. We tell those who are trying to satisfy their consciences with these half-way measures, that they cannot thereby reach the seat of the difficulty. The disease is Constitutional, and ineradicable by any means short of a revolution which shall dissolve the national compact. Mr. Howe may utter as many brave words as he pleases at home, and when he stands in need of votes; but when he gets to Washington he will have to take a solemn oath to support the Constitution, 'blot' and all, just as it stands and as it is interpreted by the Supreme Court. And what if the new law and the old were both repealed? Has it not been decided by the Supreme Court that the constitutional clause itself is sufficient to arm the slaveholder with power to catch his fugitive property?

Several speakers followed Mr. Howe, when a Report was unanimously adopted, from which we copy as follows:

A large number of the citizens of Pittsburgh and its vicinity, assembled without respect to party, in pursuance of public notice to take into consideration the provisions of the law, in relation to colored persons, do denounce the same as a high handed encroachment upon the rights of the citizens of the free States, in requiring of them the performance of acts in violation of every feeling of humanity, and in contempt of those provisions of the Constitution designed to protect the personal liberty of every man against illegal arrests and imprisonment.

This meeting does further denounce the bill as iniquitous and insulting to the freedom of the North, inasmuch as it makes no provision for trial by jury, at the home of the prisoner, thus falsifying insinuation that justice would be done to the slaveholders by the yeomanry of the free States.

For these and other reasons this meeting does hereby pledge itself to use all lawful means to procure a repeal of this atrocious bill, and in the mean time to vote for no man for any office who will not pledge himself to use all legitimate means in his proper sphere to accomplish that purpose. Resolved, That the editors of newspapers, favorable to liberty and equal rights throughout this Commonwealth, be requested to publish, in a conspicuous place, with black lines around them, the names of all persons who accept nomination as Commissioners under the "Fugitive Slave Law."

Resolved, That the members of the Pennsylvania Delegation in Congress who voted for the passage of the Slave Bill, are unworthy of the countenance or support of the friends of freedom.

Resolved, That in view of the momentous interests of humanity and of freedom which have called us together, we shall regard party names as "mere bubbles," and that we will unite and stand shoulder to shoulder until, with the blessing of God, the Fugitive Slave Bill shall be expunged from the statute book, and every supporter of that bill of abominations be driven from the national councils.

Just look at the words we have placed in Italics in the above extracts. These Pittsburghers are indignant, forsooth, at the 'insinuation' that the yeomanry of the North would not do justice to the slaveholders through the form of a jury trial—that is, that they would not send the slave back when the Constitution and laws require it! What is such indignation but an acknowledgment of their own shame—their own damning villainy?

One of the speakers at the meeting was John A. Willis, who said:

He could not refrain from expressing the gratitude which was turning in his soul at seeing the consummation of that, for which he had been looking year after year—the occurrence of an event which had wakened up the North. For years we had cringed to the South, until the tyrant had brought us to his feet. Would we submit? (Cries of "no, no.") Now was the time to strike a blow which, struck in the spirit of freedom would have the strength of God in it. He was truly glad that this infamous slave bill had passed—it had brought us to our senses.—We might see in this bill a realization of the old maxim, "whom the Gods wish to destroy they first make mad." Would we be men, or more catapans of the slaveholders? The bill had been passed under the idea of stilling the agitation prevailing in the nation—of pouring oil on the waves of popular tumult, but the oil had been poured on the furnace of every true heart, and would consume the iniquity of the South.

On the subsequent Monday evening, there was another great meeting in Allegheny, at which the Mayor presided. Mr. Salisbury, the Democratic candidate for Congress, came out in opposition to the law, and several other speakers addressed the meeting.—Strong resolutions were adopted.

FUGITIVE SLAVES. Utica, Tuesday, Oct. 1. Sixteen Fugitive Slaves, on a boat from Canada, passed through this city yesterday.—They were well armed, and determined to fight to the last minute.

The Fugitive Slave Law.

The effects of this iniquitous law upon the colored people of this vicinity have been sudden and startling. It has come upon them as a mighty and resistless avalanche, burying their hopes and prospects for the future, and sweeping away the last vestige of confidence and trust in the protection and justice of the American Government. All, both the really free, and the fugitive slave, alike, feel in danger, and the fugitive slave, stealthy seizure of the slave catcher and kidnapper. So great is the alarm existing among our colored population, that they can think and talk of nothing else; and we have ascertained, from good authority, that more than one hundred persons, stout, able bodied men, have already left for Canada. Our informant counted fifty five in one company, all well armed, and resolved to reach Canada, or sell their lives in the struggle. These were all fugitive slaves, some of whom had been here for years, and had acquired property; others had arrived but recently, some within a few days. Many of them left wives and children, who will follow them; as well as houses, horses, carts, drays, &c., which they had not time to dispose of. They hastened from a land of slavery, where dangers hemmed them in on every hand, to a soil, the proud boast of which is, that no slave can breathe there.

This excitement is by no means confined to the colored people. Citizens of all classes and parties feel indignant that the South, by this law, is compelling them to become, as it were, participants criminals in the foul work of slavery—to become slave catchers for the South. This part of the plan of pacification, so far from answering its avowed object, will further increase the agitation in the free States. No candidate or party will be able to stand up against the odium of defending or sustaining such a measure. The cry of repeal is already raised, and it will continue to be sounded, until the Northern States become thoroughly imbued with the Anti-Slavery spirit. The people of the North were willing to let slavery alone, provided they had nothing to do with it, and incurred none of its responsibilities. The South, not content with this, has forced upon them, under pain of heavy penalties, the degrading legal duty of assisting in placing the chain around the neck of the poor fugitive, who has escaped from bondage, and every citizen of the free States feels himself degraded by the unnatural, disgraceful, and unjust position in which he is placed. The consequence will be, that the North will brace herself up to oppose the law, and public opinion, in spite of all its sycophant provisions, will render, in a great measure, inoperative. It will be hard, we think, to find the man, in Allegheny county, who will accept the office of Commissioner under this law. If there be such a one found, he will find his self avoided as a sort of prodigy of infamy, his self to enjoy that freedom he is willing to take from others.—Pittsburgh Gazette.

What shall our Fugitives do?

Shall they flee to British soil? Or shall they arm themselves and defend the rights which God has given them? We say let them act as they please. We would advise every fugitive to visit Canada; to set foot on free soil; to breathe free air. Let them do this, and the chains will fall forever from their limbs. They will then be free; and no law in any State by which they can be re-enslaved. We may then all defend them as free men. Community will then stand by them, and no piratical force will ever take them back to bondage.

But if fugitives now living in the free States cannot well go to Canada, we advise them to arm themselves at once. Let each member of the family who has the power to handle a weapon, be provided with arms. If the slave catcher comes, receive him with powder and ball, with dirk, or Bowie knife, or whatever weapon be most convenient.—Do not hesitate. Slay the miscreant. No matter who he is, or whether he come from Virginia, or be a hired bloodhound from your own neighborhood. Wait not to determine whether it be DANIEL WEBSTER, or the Editor of the Cleveland Herald, if he comes to re-enslave you, or your wife, or child, furnish him with a speedy and a hospitable grave.

There is no penalty against the fugitive defending himself. This law regards him as property, and he is no more punishable for killing his master in self-defence, than would be the mule that should kick his master fatally. Barbarous as the law is, it is not taken away the right of self-defence from the slave.—Ashland Sentinel.

First Fruits of the Fugitive Bill.

The first case, under the Fugitive Law, occurred in New York city, and was begun and closed in quick time. No law's delay there.

United States Commissioner GARDNER, we like to be particularly—had James Hamlet before him, last Thursday, a light mulatto, upon the charge of being a fugitive slave, the property of Mary Brown of Baltimore.

Proof was at hand. First, a colored man, Thomas J. Clare, swore that Hamlet was a slave, and second, Augustus Brown, son of Mary Brown, clinched the matter.

What followed?

Thomas Clare, a mulatto, was the agent of the Browns, and demanded such aid of the United States Marshal as the law proffered. Mr. TALMADGE, the Marshal, said he would have to do his duty (heavens! if called upon, as though all had not been arranged), and thereupon the mulatto agent of the Browns, Clare, swore he feared a rescue. The Marshal forthwith took possession of Hamlet, the alleged slave; put him into a coach, accidentally there; handcuffed him with iron shackles closely by; and conveyed him to Baltimore forthwith.

Such is the first case under the Fugitive law—begun and ended in a few moments;—a dispatch, indeed, that would suit the bloodiest despot!—Cleveland True Democrat.

A Word from J. R. Giddings.

Mr. Giddings, in a recent address to his constituents, says:

Thus, fellow citizens, you and I are liable at any hour, to be called on to pursue the flying bandits as he listens towards a land of freedom. We have become a nation of slave-hunters, and slave-catchers.

The man who shall seize a slave upon the African coast, is by our law consigned to the galleys, and deemed unworthy of an existence among civilized or even barbarous men. The man who seizes the enlightened and intelligent Christian, one who holds the same religion, and trusts in the same salvation as himself, and riveting the cold iron upon his trembling limbs sends him back to bondage and suffering.

We know that the benighted African is unconscious of his rights, and incapable of appreciating his degradation; yet we hang the man who arrests and consigns him to slavery; this we regard as just; but what penalty can be regarded as commensurate with the crime of seizing upon our fellow man whose mind has been enlightened, who knows the rights with which God has endowed him, who comprehends the crime committed against him, and of sending him back to a land of chains, and whips, and suffering? In my opinion such crime far transcends that of the ordinary pirate. Indeed I think the thief or the pirate, far more entitled to our friendship, than he who under any circumstances will lend himself to the commission of the crimes which this law requires us to perpetrate.

I am not one of those who believe that this law, enacted by slaveholders and by traitors to freedom, will justify me before the Omniscient Judge for consigning one of his intelligent beings, to a life of suffering and degradation.

The history of civilized legislation during the 18th century, furnishes no parallel to this atrocious law. There is no lower depth of degradation to which Congress can consign the people of the free States. The remedy is alone with the people. In order to soothe the feeling of the North, and to reconcile us to this deep disgrace a bill was introduced into the Senate, and has passed that body, entitled a bill to abolish the slave trade in the District of Columbia. This bill is defective; the only effect contemplated by the bill is the exclusion of the slave breeders of Maryland from the Washington slave market. It professes to give no relief whatever to the slave who now is or who may hereafter be held in slavery within the District of Columbia. It leaves them liable to sale and transfer as heretofore. The brazen countenance of Washington are not prohibited by this bill, nor is a single individual to be saved by it from the horrors of that traffic which has so long disgraced our nation. These matters have constituted the subject of discussion, and of interest during the present session of Congress. They have occupied almost its entire time for nine and a half months.

J. R. GIDDINGS.

Flight of the Fugitive Slaves.

We have already recorded the flight of two or three parties of negroes who are afraid of the Fugitive Slave law, lately passed. On Tuesday evening thirty-five negroes, residing in the Third Ward in Allegheny, started for Canada, and there are others who will soon follow.

We have heard expressions of astonishment that there should be such a large number of fugitive slaves in the two cities as their stampedes would seem to indicate. The answer to this is very simple.—The slaves have wives, husbands, blood relations and friends, from whom they do not wish to separate, and one slave will sometimes take with him half a dozen whose freedom no one would dispute. In some cases, however, it is impossible to remove an entire family, and this leads to some heart rending separations. We are told that the scene preceding the flight mentioned above, would have excited the sympathy of the most cold-hearted. Mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, brothers and sisters are clinging to one another in despair, at the thought of a separation, which they seemed to feel would be for life.

In our opinion this panic is unnecessary. The decisions under the Constitution formed a law which gave the master all the power he could have in a commonwealth where his authority was denied by the great mass of the people. The late Bill is apparently more stringent, but when carried into operation will be found to have little or no force. If the people of Pennsylvania say that their State shall not be made a field for kidnappers, it will be as they wish, and no act of Congress can make it otherwise.

There was a meeting of negroes held last night in the Mission Church, Allegheny, to consider what action should be taken in the present crisis. There is a call for a general meeting of the citizens of Allegheny, to be held on Monday next, for the purpose of expressing their hatred to the slave law. We have heard also, that a movement is on foot to get up a meeting in Pittsburgh. The passage of the Slave Bill has caused much more excitement than we anticipated. The opinion that the law must be repealed seems to be universal in this neighborhood.—Pitts. Journal.

The Fugitive Law.

Several of our colored citizens have left the city, and others are preparing to go to Canada, through fear of this most infamous law. They are unnecessarily alarmed. In our judgment there is not the least particle of danger. We have very much mistaken public opinion here, if it would not justify a colored man in resisting by any means in his power, any officer who would attempt to arrest him under this law. We believe there is no man base enough in this city or in Northern Ohio to accept an office under it. It is a law that would disgrace Hungary, and nobody but a Haynau would aid in carrying out its provisions.—Cleve. True Democrat.

From the National Era

DERNE

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Night on the city of the Moor!
On mosque and tomb, and white walled shore,
On sea-waves to whose ceaseless knock
The narrow harbor-gates unlock,
On corsair, galley, carack tall,
And plundered Christian caraval!

The sounds of Moslem life are still;
The mute bell tinkles down the hill;
Stretched in the broad court of the Khan,
The dusty Borneo caravan
Lies heaped in slumber, beast and man;
The Sheik is dreaming in his tent,
His noisy Arab tongue o'er-silent;
The kiosk's glimmering lights are gone,
The merchant with his wares withdrawn,
Rough pillowd on some pirate breast
The dancing girl has sunk to rest:
And, save where measured footsteps fall
Along the Bashaw's guarded wall,
Or where, like some bad dream, the Jew
Creeps stealthily his quarter through,
Whose load man totters down to death,
The City of the Corsair sleeps!
But where yon prison long and low
Stands back against the pale star-glow,
Chafed by the ceaseless wash of waves,
There watch and pine the Christian slaves—
Tear out with grief their lonely lives,
And youth, still flashing from his eyes
The clear blue of New England skies,
A treasured look of whose soft hair
Now wakes some sorrowing mother's prayer,
Or, worn upon some maiden breast,
Stirs with the loving heart's unrest!

A bitter cup each life must drain,
The groaning Earth is cursed with pain,
And, like the scroll the angel bore
The shuddering Hebrew seer before,
O'er-writ alike without, within,
With all the woes which follow sin;
But, bitterest of the ills beneath
Which mortal man totters down to death,
Is that which plucks the regal crown
Of freedom from his forehead down,
And snatches from his powerless hand
The sceptred sign of self-command,
Effacing with the chain and rod
The image and the seal of God;
Tear from his nature, day by day,
The manly virtues fall away,
And leave him naked, blind, and mute,
The godlike marking in the brute!

Why mourn the quiet ones who die
Beneath affliction's tender eye,
Whose souls have soared and their bodies
Like ripened corn sheaves gathered in?
Oh weep, from that tranquil sod,
That holy harvest-home of God,
Turn to the quick and suffering, shed
Thy tears upon the living dead!
Thank God above thy dear ones' graves;
They sleep with Him: they are not slaves!

What dark mass, down the mountain sides
Swift-pouring, like a stream divides?
A long, loose, straggling caravan,
Camel and horse and armed man.
The moon's low crescent, glimmering o'er
Its grave of waters to the shore,
Lights up that mountain cavalcade,
And glints from gun and spear and blade.
Near and more near!—now o'er them falls
The shadow of the city walls.
Hark, to the sentry's challenge, drowned
In the fierce trumpet's charging sound—
The rush of men, the musket's peal,
The short, sharp clank of meeting steel!

Vain, Moslem, vain, thy life-blood poured
Softly on thy foeman's sword.
Not to the swift nor to the strong
The battles of the right belong;
For he who strikes for freedom wears
The armor of the captive's prayers,
And Nature proffers to his cause
The strength of her eternal laws,
While he whose arm essays to bind
And herd with common brutes his kind,
Strives evermore at fearful odds
With Nature and the jealous gods,
And dares the dread recoil which late
Or soon their right shall vindicate.

'Tis done! that struggle sharp and stern—
The star-flag flouts the walls of Dorne!
Joy to the captive husband! joy
To thy sick heart, oh, brown-locked boy!
In suilen wrath the conquered Moor
Wide open flings your dungeon door,
And leaves ye free from cell and chain,
The owners of yourselves again.
Dark as his allies desert-born,
Soiled with the battle's stain, and worn
With the long marches of his band
Through hottest wastes of rock and sand,
Scorched by the sun and furnace breath
Of the red desert's wind of death,
Victor welcome words and grasping hands
The victor and deliver stand!

The tale is one of distant skies;
The dust of half a century lies
Upon it, yet its hero's name
Still lingers on the lips of Fame;
And lives there one who loves to turn
To Eaton by the walls of Dorne,
And speak the praise of him who gave
Deliverance to the Moorman's slave,
Yet dares to brand with shame and crime
The heroes of our land and time—
The self-forgotten ones who stake
Home, name, and life, for freedom's sake!
God mend his heart, who cannot feel
The impulse of that holy zeal,
And sees not with his scolded eyes
The beauty of self-sacrifice!
Though in the sacred place he stands,
Uplifting consecrated hands,
Unworthy are his lips to tell
Of Jesus' martyr-miracle
Or name aught that dreads embrace
Of suffering for a fallen race.

NOT A BAD IDEA.—One man of our acquaintance—an Abolitionist of the truest sort—has made over to trustees, for the benefit of his wife, all his earthly possessions, in order that they may be safe from the grasp of the U. S. authorities in case he should find occasion to help the fugitive. Perhaps others would do well to imitate his example.

Slavery at Washington.

Sep. 24th Preston King took all but a few knowing ones by surprise by asking the suspension of the rules to enable him to offer a bill for the entire abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

Mr. ARMSTRONG of Mass. took occasion to expostulate with him about his movement being made "at this time," &c.; but he firmly adhered to his purpose. The Yeas and Nays were ordered and gave 52 Yeas to 109 Nays. There was considerable dodging on the vote. I was sorry to see it, and I trust some of the dodgers will regret their course. But what excuse will Northern men make for voting against this bill? They cannot say that it was calculated to embarrass the "great untional measures of Compromise," for they have all been acted upon. As to the timeliness of the movement, a good thing is always in time. Beside, there was no expectation of getting a two thirds vote for the suspension of the rules, and hence no room to fear that it would take up much time in action.

Mr. KISSA frankly stated that he desired an opportunity to record his vote upon a test vote on this important subject. Others desired the same. Fifty-two men, good and true, marked up to the righteous record! Do you say that is a small number? Be it so; and yet what would have been the vote even four years ago, when the Wilnot proviso was first introduced? Why, it would probably have been looted by some men who would have taken pleasure in voting for it to-day instead of dodging, had their "party obligations" permitted.

Let us be thankful for this beginning—this sign of progress—this milestone along the weary way of Anti-Slavery Reform! There is a "better day coming," when the plague spot of Slavery shall be wiped from this National District. In this expectation, we must be content to "wait a little longer."—Cor. Tribune.

WHAT THE SLAVEHOLDERS EXPECT.—The Baltimore correspondent of The Tribune says:

The Fugitive Slave Bill, as I have already stated, is regarded as a nullity by the Slave owners, who will, however, test its efficacy at the first opportunity. I understand that a project is on foot to procure the arrest of a number of Slaves who have absconded several years since, and are now residing in Pennsylvania and New York. When arrested the Fugitive Slave Bill provisions will be pleaded in the Courts of those States, and the issue raised at once. It is said, and I believe been subscribed to, that the matter with the best talent to be procured at the bar. You may look out for something exciting this Winter, whenever a move like this is made. When the bill shall have been proven a nullity at the North, there will be a grand flare up among the southern chivalry, which will be found less easy to settle than that which has just passed. We shall see, however, what we shall see.

FUGITIVE SLAVES.—We learn from our colored citizens that upwards of one hundred fugitive slaves have already left Pittsburgh for Canada. Forty left Allegheny yesterday evening, after having bade adieu to their friends and families. They almost all lived in the upper part of Allegheny city, and since their escape have intermarried with free persons of color, but they are thus once more compelled to sever all the family ties. The parting scene is described to us as having been very affecting, but it is well that they have gone, since there would most assuredly have been bloodshed had their masters endeavored to recapture them. The escaped slaves have all armed themselves, and declare that they are resolved to die rather than be again carried into bondage. We learn that several supposed slave hunters are in town, and even the free colored people are becoming alarmed at the stringent provisions of the "fugitive slave bill."—Pittsburgh Gazette.

Slave Trade at the Capital.

The following is the act abolishing the Slave Trade in the District of Columbia:

AN ACT to suppress the Slave Trade in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty one, it shall not be lawful to bring into the District of Columbia any slave whatever, for the purpose of being sold, or for the purpose of being placed in depot, to be subsequently transferred to any other State or place to be sold as merchandise. And if any slave shall be brought into said District by its owner, or by the authority or consent of its owner, contrary to the provisions of this act, such slave shall thereupon become liberated and free.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for each of the Corporations of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, from time to time, and as often as may be necessary, to abate, break up, and abolish any depot or place of confinement of slaves brought into the said District as merchandise, contrary to the provisions of this act, by such appropriate means as may appear to either of the said Corporations expedient and proper. And the same power is hereby vested in the levy court of Washington county, if any attempt shall be made within its jurisdictional limits to establish a depot or place of confinement for slaves brought into the said District as merchandise for sale contrary to this act.

Approved Sept. 20, 1850.

There is nothing in this law to prevent the sale of slaves in the District. It only breaks up the slave pens, in order to render slavery itself more tolerable. If Congress imagines that such a law will appease the anti-slavery sentiment of the North, it will find itself mistaken. Having achieved so much, that sentiment will demand yet more—the entire abolition of Slavery at the Capital.